

## Message Text

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70

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DLOS-04 SAL-01 EB-07 CIAE-00 PM-04

INR-07 L-03 ACDA-05 NSAE-00 PA-01 SS-15 PRS-01 SP-02

USIA-06 TRSE-00 SAJ-01 H-02 NSC-05 DODE-00 /077 W

----- 074370

R 101544Z MAR 76

FM AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2336

INFO AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION NATO

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR EFIS XZ IC UK DA

SUBJECT: 24TH NORDIC COUNCIL SESSION ENDS

REF: COPENHAGEN 0721 AND 0803

SUMMARY: 24TH NORDIC COUNCIL BROKE NEW GROUND WITH  
ISSUANCE BY PRESIDUM OF POLITICAL RESOLUTION ON COD WAR.  
COUNCIL DECIDED FOR SIMULTANEOUS INTERPRETATION IN SWEDISH  
AND FINNISH AT NEXT COUNCIL MEETING WHICH WILL BE HELD IN  
HELSINKI. LAPLANDERS AND GREENLANDERS WERE REFUSED  
REPRESENTATION.  
POLITICAL RESOLUTION BY PRESIDUM MAY SET TROUBLESOME  
PRECEDENT FOR FUTURE COUNCIL MEETINGS. END SUMMARY.

1. NORDIC COUNCIL'S 24TH SESSION IN COPENHAGEN BROKE NEW  
GROUND WHEN PRESIDUM ADOPTED STATEMENT SUPPORTIVE OF ICELAND  
IN COD WAR. BECAUSE ARTICLE 46 OF COUNCIL CONSTITUTION FORBIDS  
DISCUSSION OF FOREIGN POLICY, PRESIDUM INVOKED ARTICLE 56,  
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WHICH PERMITS IT TO SPEAK ON BEHALF OF THE COUNCIL WHEN IT IS

UNSUITABLE TO POSTPONE AN ITEM TO NEXT SESSION. RECOURSE WAS HAD TO THIS TACTIC BECAUSE IT WAS CLEAR THAT COUNCIL WOULD NOT HAVE VOTED FOR THE STATEMENT. THERE WAS ALSO CONCERN THAT NORDIC SOCIALIST PARTIES WOULD EXPLOIT THE FAILURE TO ISSUE A STATEMENT AS AN INDICATION THAT REGARD FOR A NORDIC COUNTRY WAS LESS IMPORTANT TO COUNCIL MEMBERS THAN COOPERATION WITH A NATO MEMBER, IN THIS CASE THE UK. DANISH PRESS COMMENTARY SEES THIS LOOSE USE OF ARTICLE 56 AS OPENING THE WAY FOR FUTURE CONTROVERSIAL POLITICAL DECLARATIONS BY THE PRESIDUM TO THE DETRIMENT OF NORDIC UNITY.

2. A DECISION WAS MADE TO EMPLOY SIMULTANEOUS INTERPRETATION OF FINNISH AT THE NEXT SESSION. THIS WILL BE THE FIRST TIME SUCH A SERVICE WILL BE PROVIDED AND IS SIGNIFICANT BECAUSE ONE OF THE PUTATIVE FOUNDATIONS OF NORDIC UNITY HAS BEEN ABILITY OF REPRESENTATIVES FROM ALL THE COUNTRIES TO UNDERSTAND AND MAKE THEMSELVES UNDERSTOOD WITHOUT THE USE OF INTERPRETERS.

3. IN DISCUSSION ON EXPULSION OF EAST EUROPEAN REFUGEES FROM SCANDINAVIAN COUNTRIES TO LAND OF ORIGINAL NORDIC ENTRY (A PROBLEM BETWEEN SWEDEN AND DENMARK) DANES AGAIN LOST OUT AND RULE PERMITTING REPATRIATION OF REFUGEES TO LAND OF ORIGINAL SCANDINAVIAN ENTRY (GENERALLY DENMARK) WAS MAINTAINED. A PROPOSAL TO GIVE LAPLANDERS AND GREENLANDERS REPRESENTATION IN THE COUNCIL WAS DEFEATED BY A LARGE MAJORITY. THE QUESTION MAY BE REOPENED WHEN GREENLAND RECEIVES HOME RULE.

4. A NUMBER OF OTHER ITEMS RANGING FROM TV PROGRAMS FOR SEAMEN TO "NATURAL MEDICINES" WERE DISCUSSED. THE DANISH GOVERNMENT HAS ALREADY REGISTERED IT DIS-SATISFACTION WITH THE PRESIDUM'S RESOLUTION ON THE FISHING DISPUTE (SEE COPENHAGEN 803).

5. IT WAS DECIDED THAT THE 25TH SESSION OF THE COUNCIL WOULD TAKE PLACE IN HELSINKI NEXT YEAR AT A TIME TO BE DECIDED LATER BY THE PRESIDUM.

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6. COMMENT: THE ADOPTION OF THE TRANSLATION RULE WITH RESPECT TO THE FINNISH LANGUAGE AND THE PRECEDENT OF THE PRESIDUM DECLARING ITSELF ON A FOREIGN POLICY MATTER MAY MAKE IT MORE DIFFICULT TO MAINTAIN WHAT REMAINS OF NORDIC UNITY. BUT THE REAL LOSER MAY BE FINLAND. IT WAS PRIMARILY OUT OF CONSIDERATION FOR THAT COUNTRY'S EXPOSED POSITION THAT IN THE HELSINKI AGREEMENT OF 1952 POLITICAL TOPICS WERE EXCLUDED FROM NORDIC COUNCIL MEETINGS.

AND IT IS THE FINN'S OWN NATIONALISTIC INSISTENCE  
ON EMPHASIZING THE FINNISH LANGUAGE IN THEIR  
SCHOOL SYSTEM THAT HAS LED TO THEIR DECREASING KNOWLEDGE OF  
THEIR FORMER LANGUAGE OF COMMUNICATION IN NORDIC MEETINGS -  
SWEDISH.  
DEAN.

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** EXECUTIVE COUNCIL, MEETING REPORTS, PRESIDUM, RESOLUTIONS, FISHING DISPUTES  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 10 MAR 1976  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** ShawDG  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1976COPENH00834  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D760091-0598  
**From:** COPENHAGEN  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
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**Legacy Key:** link1976/newtext/t19760377/aaaacpom.tel  
**Line Count:** 121  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION EUR  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 3  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 76 COPENHAGEN 721  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** ShawDG  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 31 MAR 2004  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <31 MAR 2004 by MartinML>; APPROVED <29 JUL 2004 by ShawDG>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
04 MAY 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** 24TH NORDIC COUNCIL SESSION ENDS  
**TAGS:** PFOR, EFIS, XZ, IC, UK, DA  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006